United Nations S/2004/248

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 March 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 22 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the agreement on a transitional Administrative Law in Iraq, issued on 19 March 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

04-28490 (E) 260304

Annex to the letter dated 22 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the agreement on a transitional Administrative Law in Iraq, issued on 19 March 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union commends the consensus reached by the various parties in Iraq in signing the new transitional Administrative Law on 8 March. The European Union regards this as an encouraging development in the transition process and expresses the hope that it will lead to the restoration of a sovereign, independent, democratic and peaceful Iraq to the international community.

It is the strong desire of the European Union to see sovereignty restored in full to the Iraqi people. We will continue to support efforts aimed at achieving this goal. In particular, we fully support the work of the United Nations and welcome its continued involvement in the process.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria and Romania, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.